



The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 authorized federal funding for Independent Living Centers and created SILCs (Statewide Independent Living Councils). Centers for Independent Living (CILS) are nonprofit organizations in place to provide broad disability services, supports, and resources to help citizens of this state live and remain independent at home in their own communities. CILS are disability resource experts that are well connected to assist those who are born with a disability, acquire a disability in life or even an age related disability. Missouri centers are statewide organizations that cover every county in our state to ensure every citizen has a center for independent living to go to for assistance.

- ❖ Since FY11 CILS have faced years of funding yoyos back and forth with cuts, withholds and partial restores that have damaged the CILS abilities to meet the needs of people with disabilities.
- ❖ In FY22 the final piece of our funding was restored to our **FY17 Level**.
- ❖ **According to a 2014 National Base Level Funding Study Centers should be funded at \$570,000 per Center. Most Missouri Centers are currently funded at \$255,862. This is a \$314,138 SHORTFALL per center. Missouri is WELL BELOW this National Base Level.**
- ❖ Last year Centers provided **96,987 services** to **19,646 Consumers**. *The number of services provided increased 6.7% over the previous year.*
- ❖ **Centers use the State's money WISELY.** We work diligently to assist People with Disabilities (PWD) to remain living in their own homes.
- ❖ **Missouri Centers for Independent Living** Employ **609 FTE** employees to provide Independent Living Services, of that **412 FTEs (68%)** are People with Disabilities (PWD)

**Centers are Mandated to Provide FIVE Core Services:**

1. Information & Referral
2. Independent Living Skills Training
3. Peer Support
4. Advocacy
5. Transition Services
  - a. From high school to workforce or higher education
  - b. From nursing home or institutional care back into the community

**HB2**

**General Revenue Request  
\$500,000.00  
MOVING Centers Closer  
To the National Base Level**

In addition to these mandated services, each center may provide additional services based on community needs specific to their demographic and population. This may include, but not limited to supports to find affordable, accessible housing, home modifications, recreational activities, assistive technology, youth services, or work force development as several centers assist PWD in learning job skills and helping them find employment - All in fulfillment of their mission to empower and teach people with disabilities how to be as independent as possible.

**Why is it so important to maintain funding for Centers for Independent Living?**

- Centers for Independent Living serve people with **ALL Disabilities** and those of **ANY AGE**.
- Centers for Independent Living Specialize in Resources and knowing where to find resources for many types of disabilities. **We work with individuals, schools and communities.**
- Centers for Independent Living can be a **Large Asset for the Elementary and Secondary Education System**. We have resources on IEPs, assistive technology, mental health, independent living skills training, transition planning, employment and many other services/resources.
- **Missouri Centers for Independent Living are partners to the state agencies and other support organizations to assist in linking and streamlining the process for community options and resources for all citizens with disabilities.**